

South Park Stakeholders Group – SOBO/EBO Committee Meeting Wednesday, September 4, 2013, 8:30 AM 1333 S. Hope St, Los Angeles, CA 90015

Committee Members: Bob Buente, Mercedes Talley, Kevin O’Neil, Robin Bieker, Nate Nusbaum, Gerry Suenram, Kevin Litwood, Officer Sam Robles, Officer Victor Aguilar

Staff: Jessica Lall, Amanda Irvine, Officer Dennis Robles

Consultants: Steve Hillard (conference call)

MINUTES:

Committee Chair, Bob Buente, called the meeting to order at 8:33 AM. There were no public announcements or comments.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Action taken?</i>
Public Comment/ Introductions		No action taken
Mutt Mitt approval for \$3,000	Increase of dog feces in the district. Victor G – Three years ago there were hardly anyone with dogs, about 50% of people have dogs, some multiple dogs. Its becoming an issue. Previously, Clean Team built their own, but we are proposing increasing and replacing the Mutt Mitt dispensers. We’d like to put them on street signs that already exist. Clean team has a map and list of the places we’d like to install new green ones.	Bob motions, Mercedes seconds, all in favor, none opposed.
Discussion on increase in transients	We’ve been getting a significant increase in calls and concerns on the increase of transients in the area, especially the panhandling at the Starbucks on 11 th and Grand. We’ve increased deployment over there. We’re seeing individuals giving very large sums of money, on a regular basis, therefore they refuse to leave. We plan on bringing it up at the upcoming Neighborhood Watch meeting. Once they’re given money, they can buy a coffee and then sit on the chairs indefinitely. The issue of people giving out money is clearly a big issue and has a trickle-down effect. Sam – has gotten an email about vandalism, urination, and worse. Has educated one transient named Bruce. Technically, Starbucks has to give them permission to panhandle there, but they haven’t stopped them. LAPD can’t keep people away from a private property, they need the property managers to be vocal. No Trespassing signs could help. You’re instigating the problem yourself if you give	

	<p>money. If Starbucks posts a sign about refusing to serve, requiring shoes, etc. Word will get out about the kinds of denominations, and there are 18,000 transients within 10 blocks of us to the east. Managers nearby can sign a no-trespassing order for LAPD and they can enforce it for 60 days, and they can be arrested on the spot. Problem is a lot of property owners are apprehensive about it, and it is effective. Jessica – has reached out to manager of Starbucks. We’ve started to discuss to what extent can the BID post signs, the property owners post signs. We’re not limited in assisting posting, but we can’t post signs on property that isn’t ours without their permission. As long as you don’t post signs, it empowers transients to do whatever they want. Steve – sent an education piece on what is being done in Chicago. Encourages businesses to have a jar to donate to social groups so people will give to that instead of individuals. Possibly present at NW Meeting. Victor – 12 cars have been broken into this week, theres a lot of info that needs to be given to the residents. Sam – issue with tip jars is that they can get grabbed by transients who run in. Steve – we should target a few businesses with a campaign, and panhandle for charity right next to the transients. Nate – is it possible to call on communities that have done this and learn from their experience? Steve – Chicago hasn’t implemented it, but Atlanta, GA BID has done a good job with this kind of thing. Sam – likes the idea but it may cause issues for LAPD: if a call comes in for panhandling, the law limits that they’d have to arrest our staff, too. Also, we may have to create our own non-profit. Its bringing yourself to the level of the transients. Steve – This program follows the same guidelines as Salvation Army. Nate – The BID as a non-profit can collect the money. Sam – only legal if property owner has allowed them, written permission. Transients make anonymous phone calls, and could call about our staff, too. Have a lot of these issues at LAX and other large venues. Gerry – once you get on private property its legal if written, but we understand that not outside. Sam – to educate every officer about this, would put them in a compromising position with the commanding officer. As long as property owners are notified in advance. Steve – the key is strategic placement based on our existing issues. Its worth looking into. Perhaps the program without the manpower. Show at NW Meeting, and lets see how they react to this kind of visual. People in general think that DTLA is becoming less safe bc of increase in transients. Jessica will meet with Melissa from Starbucks next week.</p>	
Neighborhood	We’re creating an agenda, and will be distributing a	

Watch Meeting, September 24 (6-7:30pm)	bunch of handouts relating to the right numbers to call when specific things happen.	
Review maintenance of non-BID items	We've come up against City processes in maintain our district. Our policy was to only maintain our specific items, but there are about 30 trash cans that aren't ours, and the City isn't taking care of them. If we start to maintain them, we will have to keep doing it. Victor's team has started to take responsibility for all in district, we've determined that the time and money extra on them is negligible. Mercedes – does this include benches on bus stops? Yes, we can't replace or fix, but we can clean them.	
Scheduling and Equipment Update	Steve – been working on schedules for cleaning, have the new pressure-washing trailer, finalized marketing for segways, so once training is done they will be logo'd. Segways will be deployed in leiu in some of the bike and on foot, and especially the vehicles which Safe team will no longer be using.	No action taken
Planters / umbrellas / chairs purchase	Last time, we were very eager to purchase them, but we took a step back to look at liability. We just need to have a contract with the property owners. We also need someone who knows what they're doing with the plants, we have connected with David Williams on this. We've chosen colors and materials. Nate – who will be using this? We're required to spend more money on the condo blocks. The plants would last well in our weather, and the tables and chairs would be picked up and put out. Gerry – concern that transients might pick them up and take them away. Food truck Tuesdays, perhaps EVO could use these then.	
Prop 218 update	My Figueroa project to convert Figueroa and 11 th Streets into protected bike lanes and bus lanes, has a very aggressive timeline. Part of the program involved additional lighting on 11 th St, which would initiate a recalculation of what the assessment would be. City did a poor job of explaining this, and it was voted down by owners. We will be helping to educate the public as the City re-issues the ballot. BoS was not interested in communicating with us before, our goal is to get as much info before they send out the ballots again. Will have more information next week.	
Evo Disaster Preparedness Conference Update	Date has changed from September 21 to November 9 in order to be more prepared and obtain more money. Budget is at \$8,000, need to raise \$3,000 more in order to reach this. Many interested external entities are interested, Gerry is confident that the full amount will be raised and it will be more successful at this later date. Same location as before.	
ICON	Sam – may have requested an extension from the City	

	<p>on conditions of CUP violations. They are still operating, and Council will likely accept their request for extension. Why are they allowed to stay open? While they are being investigated, Central Vice unit has noticed many issues occurring there, but it went out of Central Division's hand's because of the level of issues/crimes taking place here. A higher unit (not local anymore) has taken over the investigation at the time being, while local Vice is still dealing with specific issues as they come up. ICON has been notified, and they are currently attempting to be become in compliance. We should have a better idea of what next steps are after the hearing next week.</p> <p>Victor – You can still send letters about this. We'd recommend sending it ASAP.</p>	
Other Business	<p>Streetcar? Stops are still not finalized, and they are still working on obtaining federal funding.</p> <p>Nate – Metro Charter has started this week. September 12, Emergency Center is having a dedication officially. October 17, Grand Opening of new Hope Street Family Center. Will be taking over Venice Hope Park, which the BID has been taking care of.</p> <p>Kevin – they took over the parking at 1212 S Flower yesterday.</p>	
Next Meeting	Wednesday, November 6 at 8:30 AM	

Bob adjourns meeting at 9:44 AM

NEXT STEPS:

- **Jessica will:**
 - Send Mercedes and Gerry David's info
- **Amanda will:**
 - Newsletter – don't promote transients

Minutes taken by Amanda Irvine, staff.